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XVI. *EXTRACTS FROM PEKING GAZETTES. Translated by JOHN FRANCIS DAVIS, Esq., M.R.A.S. Communicated by SIR GEORGE THOMAS STAUNTON, BART., V.P. R.A.S.*

Read March 19, 1825.

No. 1. *Extract from the Peking Gazette, dated 5th day of 4th moon, of the 4th year of TAOU KWANG (3d May, 1824).*

Tseang-yew-t'ien (Governor of Chih-le province), P'een tsow,* *i. e.* shortly addresses his Imperial Majesty on the subject of the tribute bearer from the † *M'een-t'ien*‡ nation, now on his way from Peking back to his native country. I deputed civil and military officers to escort him safely and diligently. Now the magistrate of *Tsze-chow* district reports that the said envoy proceeds very well and peaceably on his journey; and that on the 13th of the 3d moon (11th April) he had been escorted as far as *Gan-yang-h'een* in *Ho-nan* province, where he had been transferred to the care of the local officers, to continue his progress. It is right that I present this short address on the subject.

Vermilion reply: “We know it.” *Khin tsze.*

* For the Chinese characters, see Plate III, No. 1. † See Plate III, No. 2.

‡ On examining the site of this *M'een-t'ien* nation, on a very valuable map belonging to the East-India Company, and copied with great exactness from the actual surveys of the missionaries, it is found exactly to correspond to the eastern part of the Burman empire, being placed on the frontier of *Yun nan* province, between 22° and 25° latitude. Close to this, on the same map, is the name § *Ah-wa* (Ava). The following rivers pass from *Yun nan* province into the Burman territory, *viz.* ¶ *Lung-chuen keang*, Dragon-stream river; ¶ *Pin-lang keang*, Betel-nut river. Somewhat to the northward of these, is, ** *Kin-sha keang*, Golden sand river. To the northward of *M'een-t'ien*, towards Thibet, and the Berhampooter river (which latter is written by the Chinese, *A-loo-tsang-poo*, and exactly answers, in *their* way of spelling, to *E-re-chom-boo*, the Thibetian name, according to Turner) the map contains †† *Noo-e*, which either means “the angry, or savage foreigners;” or is used merely to express a foreign sound.

§ See Plate III, No. 3. ¶ See Plate III, No. 4. ¶ See Plate III, No. 5.

** See Plate III, No. 6. †† See Plate III, No. 7.

*Erection of Military Posts on the Frontier of YUN-NAN (dated 4th year,
6th moon, 4th day).*

Ming-shan, Viceroy of Yun-nan and Kwei-chow provinces, entreats the Imperial attention to the subject of this address. I, your slave, have received a communication from the military commander, *Ah-tsing-ah*, stating, that "in the first year, and the third moon, he was indebted to the Imperial goodness for his present appointment of general of *Tǎng yuě chin*, and that having been introduced to your Majesty's presence, he reached his station in the 8th moon of the same year. Three years having nearly elapsed, it is right that he solicit to be again introduced."* In the 6th year of Kea-king (1801) the Imperial decree signified, that for the future, the precise period of presenting military officers need not be rigidly observed: that any such persons as were not immediately engaged in the performance of important duties, might proceed in turn to Peking to be introduced." This is respectfully preserved on record. The station *Tang yuě*,† being on the very frontier itself, is of great consequence. Watch-towers and lines of communication are now forming: and it would be inexpedient to entrust the command to an inexperienced person; therefore it is right to petition the Imperial goodness to defer the period of this General's presentation until the work in which he is engaged be completed. For this purpose the present address is humbly offered up.

No. 2. *From the Peking Gazette, of the 4th year of Taou-kwang, dated
3d moon, 20th day.*

*Depreciation of the metal Currency in Füh-këen province, in consequence of
over coinage.*

Chaou-shin-chin, Viceroy of Füh-këen and of Che-keang provinces, with his colleagues, kneels and presents this report concerning the depreciation

* Such is the old established rule; but having been found inconvenient, it is sometimes relaxed. The Viceroy of Shen-se and Kan-süh has proposed lately to the Emperor, to confine it to the provinces close to the capital, and excuse the distant ones.

† *Tang yuě chin*. In the Company's large MS. map it is placed on the borders of the Burmese empire, between Betel-nut and Dragon-stream rivers.

of the current Tchen* (base-metal coin) in comparison with silver, to the great loss of the provincial treasury; requesting the Imperial assent to a temporary suspension of the coinage, with a view to prevent needless waste, and equalize or bring to a par the market prices of gold and silver.

In the mint of Füh-këen province, named Paon-fuh-keu, the average coinage of ten days has been 1,200 strings of Tchent† (each string containing 1,000, or ten divisions of 100 each), and therefore the total coinage of one year has averaged 43,200‡ strings (or 43,200,000 Tchen), the use of which has been to pay the militia of the province. In order to procure the copper and lead required for coinage, officers have been regularly deputed to Yun-nan and Hoo-pih provinces; and it has been calculated that the expences of transmission and coinage together with other charges, added to the cost of the metal, have amounted, on an average, to $1,261^{\text{T m c c}}_{600}$ in every 1,000 Tchen. The present market value of standard silver in exchange for coin at the capital, is 1 Tael weight for 1,240 or 1,250 Tchen: and it is the same throughout the province. This being added to the above, the total disadvantage amounts to more than $500^{\text{m c c}}$ in each Tael, and the annual loss to more than 20,000 Taels value.

The province of Füh-këen being on the borders of the sea, its distance from some other provinces is great; and the merchants, who resort hither with their goods, finding it inconvenient to carry back such a weight of Tchen, exchange it for silver, as a more portable remittance, by which means silver and coin have become very disproportioned in their relative values, the former rising, and the latter falling, to an unusual degree.

It has always been the rule to pay the militia in *Tchen*, at the rate of 1,000 for a Tael of silver: but now a Tael of silver in the market being worth 1,240 or 1,250 *Tchen*, they experience serious loss from this when they exchange their *Tchen* for silver, with a view to the more ready transmission of their pay to a distance."

After some other details of less interest, the Viceroy and his colleagues

* *Tsëen*, pronounced *Tchen*, to the northward, and called by Europeans at Canton, cash.

† See Plate III, No. 8.

‡ Taking the Tchen at their proper value, the annual addition to the circulation in this province would be about £14,400, and of the whole empire, taking it at *fifteen* provinces, £216,000. It was probably the great *bulk* of the coin, in proportion to its *value*, which induced the necessity of provincial mints.

propose, that "from the summer half-year of the 4th of Taou kwang, the mint should be shut, and all further coinage suspended: the soldiers receiving their pay in silver, until the relative values of silver and currency approach nearer to a par." The Emperor returns for answer—"The address has been recorded." And a later gazette conveys his assent to the measure.*

Description of the Coins of the Ta-tsing, or reigning Dynasty of China.

I.

SHUN-CHE,† A.D. 1643. The founder of the present Manchow Tartar dynasty, by driving out the *Ming*, or Chinese dynasty. He compelled the Chinese to shave their heads, and wear long tails, like the Tartars. Reigned eighteen years. The other two characters, *Tung-paou*,‡ denote that the coin is current throughout the empire. The reverse of the coin bears the Tartar character.

II.

KANG-HE,§ A.D. 1661. The second Emperor of the present dynasty. Reigned sixty-one years. He has been very much praised by the Jesuit missionaries, to whom he showed great favours.

* The *Yuen* dynasty or Mongol conquerors of China, established a paper money for the pay of their troops (a fact which is noticed by Marco Polo); but, ignorant of the truth, that the circulation cannot absorb, or take up, more than a limited quantity, without a depreciation of its value, they continued their extravagant issues of paper, until it became nearly worthless; notwithstanding their absurd attempts to keep up its credit, by forbidding the use of *any* medium of exchange but this. The final expulsion of the Mongol Tartars may be attributed in some measure to the ruin induced by the above cause. In an interesting memoir on this subject (a copy of which was obligingly transmitted by its author to the Translator of the foregoing), M. Klaproth very truly observes, that the Manchow Tartars, the *last* conquerors of China, have never attempted to put paper money in circulation; adding, "*car ces barbares ignorent encore le principe fondamental de toute bonne administration financière, savoir, que plus un pays a de dettes, plus il est riche et heureux.*"

† See Plate III, No. 9.

‡ See Plate III, No. 10.

§ See Plate III, No. 11.

III.

YUNG-CHING,* A.D. 1722. The third Emperor. Reigned thirteen years.

IV.

KĒEN LUNG,† A.D. 1735. The fourth Emperor. Reigned sixty years. The Chinese Empire was never so large as in this reign. KĒEN-LUNG expanded it to its greatest size, as Trajan did the Roman empire by violating the wise precept of Augustus, in adding the province of Dacia. KĒEN-LUNG sent the embassy to the Khan of the Tourgouth Tartars, a tribe whom he afterwards restored to their native country, from their exile in the Russian territories. Lord Macartney's embassy was to this Emperor.

V.

KEA-KING,‡ A.D. 1795. The fifth Emperor. Reigned twenty-five years. Lord Amherst's embassy.

VI.

TAOU-KWANG,§ A.D. 1820. The reigning Emperor.

* See Plate III, No. 12.

‡ See Plate III, No. 14.

† See Plate III, No. 13.

§ See Plate III, No. 15.

<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>通寶</p>	<p>6</p> <p>金沙江</p>	<p>4</p> <p>龍川江</p>	<p>1</p> <p>片奏</p>
<p>11</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>寶泉</p>	<p>7</p> <p>怒夷</p>	<p>5</p> <p>檳榔江</p>	<p>2</p> <p>緬甸</p>
<p>12</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>道</p>	<p>8</p> <p>錢</p>		<p>3</p> <p>阿瓦</p>
<p>13</p> 				
<p>14</p> 				
<p>15</p> 				